

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4770

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: MULDER REITERATES NO POWER SHARING WITH BLACKS

REF: CAPE TOWN 230

1. SPEAKING TO THE NATIONAL PARTY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS IN NATAL ON AUGUST 15, PLURAL RELATIONS MINISTER CONNIE MULDER REITERATED THE THEME THAT SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS WOULD NOT SHARE A POLITICAL ROLE WITH WHITES IN A FUTURE SOUTH AFRICA. MULDER SAID, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THAT "THE DECISION MAKING POWER OF THE WHITES WILL REMAIN IN WHITE HANDS IN THE SAME WAY THE RIGHT OF DECISION MAKING WILL, IN TIME, BE TRANSFERRED TO THE BLACK PEOPLES ON LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS... IT SHOULD BE THE AIM THAT THE BLACK SHOULD EXPERIENCE A FEELING OF BELONGING IN HIS OWN FATHERLAND AND MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN HIS LOVE FOR THAT WHICH IS HIS...ABOVE ALL, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT HE WILL HAVE FULL SAY OVER HIS OWN AFFAIRS." MULDER EMPHASIZED THAT, IN TERMS OF THE NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN, BLACKS WOULD BE GRANTED FULL AUTONOMY OVER LOCAL AFFAIRS, BUT "THERE WILL BE NO SIGN OF INTEGRATION AND THE PLAN WILL
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NOT LEAD TO A POLITICALLY MIXED SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT."
HE ADDED THAT THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNMENT POLICY AND, IN TERMS OF THAT POLICY, EVERY BLACK IS REGARDED AS A HOMELAND CITIZEN.

2. MULDER, IN HIS ADDRESS, REPORTEDLY TOLD THE NP CONGRESS THAT HE ENVISAGED A NEW "UMBRELLA BODY...(OF)...

THE NATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA" WHICH COULD CONSULT ON AND DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN, BUT THEIR SOVEREIGNTY WOULD NOT BE QUESTIONED.

3. MULDER ALSO CRITICIZED WORLD HOSTILITY TO SAG POLICY, SAYING THE WHITES WERE "THE MOST CIVILIZED AND DEVELOPED TRIBE IN THE WHOLE OF AFRICA" AND HAD DONE MORE FOR OTHER TRIBES THAN ANY ONE. "NOW WE ARE CONDEMNED", HE SAID, "BECAUSE WE ARE NOT BLACK." HE ALSO COMPARED SAG POLICY OF "PLURAL DEMOCRACIES" WITH US "INTEGRATIONIST POLICY". HE SAID THAT, WHILE SOUTH AFRICA HAD GENERATED BLACK HEADS OF STATE, PRESIDENTS, PRIME MINISTERS AND CABINET MINISTERS, THE US HAD PROVIDED NO SIMILAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITS BLACKS. THE HIGHEST POSITION REACHED BY A BLACK WAS THE US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN AND BLACK REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS WAS NOT EQUIVALENT TO THE BLACK PROPORTION OF THE US POPULATION.

4. COMMENT: MULDER TENDS TO REFLECT IN PRIVATE A FLEXIBLE AND MORE HUMANE ATTITUDE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR AND CERTAIN COLLEAGUES TOWARDS THE BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN AND HIS FUTURE. MANY VERLIGTE AFRIKANER EDITORS AND MP'S INTERPRET MULDER'S PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STANCES TO MEAN THAT ALTHOUGH HE MUST REITERATE THE DOGMA THAT THE ULTIMATE RESULT OF NATIONALIST POLICY WILL MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE NO BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN, THE SAG IN FACT IS NOT TIED IRREVOCABLY TO THE PURSUIT OF INDEPENDENCE FOR ALL HOMELANDS AND THE ALIENATION OF ALL BLACKS FROM THE WHITE BODY POLITIC.
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THEY INTERPRET MULDER'S PERCEPTION OF AN "UMBRELLA BODY", AN IDEA WHICH HE RAISED IN PARLIAMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR, AS INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL EVOLUTION INTO A FEDERATION OF STATES. OTHERS BELIEVE THIS IS WISHFUL VERLIGTE THINKING. IN ANY EVENT, MULDER DUTIFULLY UNDERScoreD THE NATAL CONGRESS THE MESSAGE THAT BLACKS WILL TAKE NO PART IN WHITE POLITICS AND THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF BREACHING THE WALL OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT TO ACCEPT ANY FORM OF POLITICAL POWER SHARING. MULDER'S HARD LINE SHOULD ALSO BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPING SUCCESSION STRUGGLE WITHIN THE PARTY. MULDER HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN BADLY WOUNDED IN THIS STRUGGLE BY THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT SCANDALS (CAPE TOWN 1128) AND HE, LIKE MOST OTHER ASPIRANTS FOR THE LEADERSHIP IS APPEALING TO THE CENTER AND RIGHT WINGS, OF THE PARTY. MULDER RECENTLY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE PARTY WILL CHANGE BUT WILL ONLY DO SO UNDER A CONSERVATIVE LEADER.
EDMONDSON

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